Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A ladder rack for supporting a ladder in a stowage position and moving the ladder between the stowage position and a loading/unloading position at which the ladder can be loaded onto the rack or unloaded from the rack, said ladder rack comprising:

a frame assembly which is mounted on a support structure;

a bed platform having a first end that is pivotally coupled to the frame assembly by a pivot point that allows for multiple axis pivotal movement and a second end that is coupled to the frame assembly for alternative sliding and hinged movement with respect to the frame assembly; and

a manually operative sliding mechanism and a manually operative pivoting mechanism for moving the bed platform between the stowage position and the loading/unloading position without overturning a ladder held on the bed platform. ~~position.~~

Claim 2 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 1, wherein the manually operative sliding mechanism comprises a guide bar assembly that cooperates with a fixed guide assembly that is coupled to the frame assembly.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A ladder rack according to claim 1, wherein the manually operative pivoting mechanism comprises a guide bar assembly that ~~cooperate~~ cooperates with a hinged guide assembly that is coupled to the frame assembly.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A ladder rack according to claim 1, wherein the manually operative sliding mechanism comprises a guide bar assembly that cooperates with a fixed guide assembly that is coupled to the frame assembly and the manually operative pivoting mechanism comprises the guide bar assembly which further ~~cooperate~~ cooperates with a hinged guide assembly that is coupled to the frame assembly.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A ladder rack according to claim 4, wherein the manually operative sliding mechanism and the manually operative pivoting mechanism further comprises a latch mechanism that couples the guide bar assembly to the hinged guide assembly as the guide bar assembly is manually ~~slide~~ slid out of engagement with the fixed guide assembly.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A ladder rack according to claim 5, wherein the latch mechanism is released when the hinged guide mechanism is moved from the loading/unloading position to ~~the and~~ an intermediate position in which the fixed guide assembly and the hinged guide assembly are aligned with one another.

Claim 7 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 1, further comprising a pair of spaced apart outboard ladder grips provided on the bed platform and an inboard ladder grip provided on the frame assembly and located midway between the pair of spaced apart outboard ladder grips.

Claim 8 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 7, further comprising at least one ladder rung grip provided on the bed platform.

Claim 9 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 1, wherein the support structure comprises a vehicle.

Claim 10 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 9, wherein the support structure comprises the roof of a vehicle.

Claim 11 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 1, further comprising a main latch assembly that secures the bed platform in the stowage position.

Claim 12 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 1, wherein the manually operative sliding mechanism and the manually operative pivoting mechanism comprise a handle.

Claim 13 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 1, wherein the frame assembly has a length which is substantially equal to a length of the bed assembly.

Claim 14 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 1, further including one of a mechanical dampener and a hydraulic dampener for assisting with the manual operation of the pivoting mechanism.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A ladder rack for supporting a ladder in a stowage position and moving the ladder between the stowage position and a loading/unloading position at which the ladder can be loaded onto the rack or unloaded from the rack, said ladder rack comprising:

a frame assembly which is mounted on a support structure, said frame assembly having first and second ends; a bed platform having first and second ends;

a pivot bearing coupling the first end of the bed platform to the first end of the frame assembly which allows for multiple axis pivotal movement;

a guide bar assembly coupling the second end of the bed platform to the second end of the frame assembly, said guide bar assembly including a guide bar that projects outward from the second end of the bed platform;

a fixed guide ~~bar~~ assembly fixed to the second end of the frame assembly, said fixed guide ~~bar~~ assembly having ~~a~~ an elongated slot for receiving said guide bar therein; and a hinged guide ~~bar~~ assembly pivotally coupled to the second end of the frame assembly, said hinged guide ~~bar~~ assembly having ~~a~~ an elongated slot for receiving said guide bar therein,

the guide bar being in both of the elongated slots of the fixed guide ~~bar~~ assembly and the hinged guide ~~bar~~ assembly when the ladder rack is in the stowage position, and

the guide bar being exclusively in the elongated slot of the hinged guide assembly when the ladder rack is in the loading/unloading position.

Claim 16 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 15, wherein the guide bar assembly includes a handle for manually moving the ladder rack between the stowage position and the loading/unloading position.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A ladder rack according to claim 15, wherein the guide bar assembly includes a latching mechanism that couples the guide bar assembly to the hinged guide assembly as the guide bar assembly is ~~slide~~ slid out of engagement with the fixed guide assembly.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A ladder rack according to claim 17, wherein the latch mechanism is released when the hinged guide mechanism is moved from the loading/unloading position to the ~~and~~ an intermediate position in which the fixed guide assembly and the hinged guide assembly are aligned with one another.

Claim 19 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 15, further comprising a pair of spaced apart outboard ladder grips provided on the bed platform and an inboard ladder grip provided on the frame assembly and located midway between the pair of spaced apart outboard ladder grips.

Claim 20 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 19, further comprising at least one ladder rung grip provided on the bed platform.

Claim 21 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 15, wherein the support structure comprises a vehicle.

Claim 22 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 21, wherein the support structure comprises the roof of a vehicle.

Claim 23 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 15, further comprising a main latch assembly that secures the bed platform in the stowage position.

Claim 24 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 15, wherein the frame assembly has a length which is substantially equal to a length of the bed assembly.

Claim 25 (Original): A ladder rack according to claim 15, further including one of a mechanical dampener and a hydraulic dampener for assisting with the manual operation of the pivoting mechanism.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): A method of manually unloading a ladder from a stowage position on the top of a vehicle which comprises the steps of:

a) providing a ladder rack which includes a frame assembly and a bed platform;

b) mounting the frame assembly to the top of a vehicle;

c) providing a ladder mounted on top of the vehicle on top the bed platform;

d) manually sliding one end of the bed assembly outward over a side of the vehicle while pivoting another end of the bed assembly about a fixed pivot point then;

e) manually pivoting the one end of the bed assembly downward ~~alone~~ along the side of the vehicle while pivoting the ~~another~~ other end of the bed assembly about the fixed pivot point; and

f) removing the ladder from the bed platform, ~~platform.~~

wherein the ladder is not overturned throughout steps c) through e).

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 26 further comprising providing one of a mechanical dampener and a hydraulic dampener for assisting with the manual pivoting of the bed frame.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a latch mechanism that engages and couples the one end of the bed platform to the frame assembly after the one end of the bed assembly is outward over a side of the vehicle.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a main latch assembly that is engaged when the ladder is in the stowage position which main latch assembly is released prior to manually sliding one end of the bed assembly outward over a side of the vehicle.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A method of manually loading a ladder into a stowage position on the top of a vehicle which comprises the steps:

a) providing a ladder rack which includes a frame assembly and a bed platform;

b) mounting the frame assembly to the top of a vehicle;

c) positioning one end of the bed platform down along a side of the vehicle while maintaining an opposite end of the bed platform about a fixed pivot point above the vehicle;

d) mounting a ladder onto the bed platform;

e) manually pivoting the one end of the bed assembly upward from along the side of the vehicle to above the vehicle while pivoting the opposite end of the bed assembly about the fixed pivot point; and then

f) manually sliding the one end of the bed assembly inward over the top of the vehicle while pivoting the another end of the bed assembly about the fixed pivot point, ~~point.~~

wherein the ladder is not overturned throughout steps d) through f).

Claim 31 (Original): The method of claim 30 further comprising providing one of a mechanical dampener and a hydraulic dampener for assisting with the manual pivoting of the bed frame.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising providing a latch mechanism that engages and couples the one end of the bed platform to the frame assembly when the one end of the bed platform is pivoted downward and which latch mechanism is disengaged when the bed platform is pivoted upward into a position above the vehicle.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising providing a main latch assembly that is engaged when the ladder is in the stowage position.